AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A tarnish inhibiting composition effective to protect a surface of a silver object containing in excess of 90% silver, when the surface is exposed to the composition in a sealed environment, against tarnishing in a molecular-oxygen containing atmosphere containing in the range from 1 ppb (parts per billion) to 10 ppm (parts per million) of hydrogen sulfide at a relative humidity of 90% and 37.4°C (100°F), for at least one year, the composition consisting essentially of comprising: a substantially non-hydrolyzable polymer having substantially homogeneously dispersed therein from about 0.01% to 5% by weight of an essentially anhydrous scavenger selected from the group consisting of including an alkali metal silicate [[and]] or zinc oxide, in combination with from 0 to 1% of an inert adjuvant, provided that the polymer has a water vapor transmission rate (WVTR) at least as high as that of low density polyethylene.
- 2. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of includes low density polyethylene, polypropylene, copolymers of lower C₂-C₈ olefins, copolymers of a lower C₂-C₈ olefin and ethylene/vinyl alcohol, non-biodegradable polyester, poly(vinyl chloride), polystyrene, or polyamide, or combinations thereof. [[and]] or a biodegradable polyester polymer having a WVTR higher than about 1.5 gm/24 hr measured per 0.025 mm (mil) thickness and 645 cm² (100 in²) area at 37.4°C (100°F) and 90% RH (relative humidity).
- 3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a polyester is selected from the group consisting of including a star ε-caprolactone;[[,]] ε-caprolactone (PCL); poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate) (PHBV);[[,]] containing 8, 16 and 24% valerate; an uncoated- [[and]] or nitrocellulose-coated cellophane

films; crosslinked chitosan; starch/ethylene vinyl alcohol (St/EVOH) blend film[[s]]; pure EVOH film (38 mole percent ethylene); [[and]] or polycaprolactone (PCL), molecular weight about 80,000 Daltons; or combinations thereof.

- 4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[1]] 3, wherein the alkali metal silicate is a silicate of sodium, and the adjuvant is selected from the group-consisting of includes fumed silica [[and]] or calcium carbonate, or combinations thereof, and wherein the adjuvant is present in an amount in the range from 0.01% to 1% by weight.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition is transparent, wherein the adjuvant is present, and the scavenger and the adjuvant, independently, have a primary particle size in the range from about 1 μ m to 53 μ m and are substantially homogeneously dispersed in the polymer.
 - 6. (Cancelled.)
 - 7. (Cancelled.)
 - 8. (Cancelled.)
- 9. (New) The composition of claim 2, wherein said polymer is said biodegradable polymer, said biodegradable polymer including star ε-caprolactone; ε-caprolactone (PCL); poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate) (PHBV); an uncoated- or nitrocellulose-coated cellophane film; crosslinked chitosan; starch/ethylene vinyl alcohol (St/EVOH) blend film; pure EVOH film (38 mole percent ethylene); or polycaprolactone (PCL), molecular weight about 80,000 Daltons; or combinations thereof.
- 10. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein the alkali metal silicate is a silicate of sodium, and the adjuvant is fumed silica or calcium carbonate, or combinations thereof, and wherein the adjuvant is present in an amount in the range from 0.01% to 1% by weight.

11. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein the composition is transparent, wherein the adjuvant is present, and wherein the scavenger and the adjuvant, independently, have a primary particle size in the range from about 1 μ m to 53 μ m and are substantially homogeneously dispersed in the polymer.

- 12. (New) The composition of claim 2, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.
- 13. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.
- 14. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.
- 15. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.
- 16. (New) The composition of claim 2, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.
- 17. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.
- 18. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.
- 19. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.